

Udall (CO)	Warner	Whitehouse
Udall (NM)	Webb	Wyden

## NAYS—46

Alexander	Enzi	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blunt	Hatch	Portman
Boozman	Heller	Risch
Brown (MA)	Hoeben	Roberts
Burr	Hutchison	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Coburn	Johanns	Snowe
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Collins	Kirk	Toomey
Corker	Kyl	Vitter
Cornyn	Lee	Wicker
Crapo	Lugar	
DeMint	McConnell	

## NOT VOTING—3

Gillibrand	Kerry	McCain
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The motion was agreed to.

• **Mr. KERRY.** Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the vote on the motion to table the motion to proceed to the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, H.R. 2560. If I were able to attend today's session, I would have supported the motion to table the motion to proceed to the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, H.R. 2560.●

• **Mr. MCCAIN.** Mr. President, I regret that due to my attendance at a dear friend's funeral this morning, I was not in the Senate to cast my vote for the cut, cap and balance legislation. I fully support cut, cap and balance and I am proud that Republicans put forward a concrete proposal to cut spending, balance the budget, reign in the spiraling debt that imperils our children's future and ensures that our Nation continues to meet its obligations.

The Democratic leadership has failed to put forward any meaningful proposal to break this impasse, but instead continues to set up procedural road blocks to keep Republican plans from passing and force votes on non-binding legislation that will do nothing to solve our problems. The Democrats, led by President Obama, continue to insist that our fiscal difficulties can be fixed by raising taxes on individuals and small businesses—the exact policies that will deepen our economic woes, not fix them.

Both parties must now find a reasonable, responsible path forward to address head-on our debt crisis, end the mortgaging of our children's future and make certain that our Nation meets its debt obligations, as we Americans always have. If Speaker Tip O'Neill and President Ronald Regan could find agreement on such matters, we can too. We must put politics aside and do what is right for our Nation.●

• **Mrs. GILLIBRAND.** Mr. President, no one disputes that we must act now to reduce our growing debt. The interest we pay on our debt costs us dearly in lost opportunity to invest in America. We spend millions of dollars a year paying interest to countries, like China, that we should be investing here in America to create jobs and get our economy moving again. At the same time, it is essential that we do not, for the first time in history, fail to pay our obligations and default on our debt.

Doing so will only make our economic and debt challenges more difficult, and could make it almost impossible to turn our economy around.

Unfortunately, I think this legislation is shortsighted and mistaken. It neither guarantees that the United States will not default on its obligations, nor does it provide a balanced blueprint to addressing our long-term budget obligations. Instead, it would constitutionally protect tax breaks for millionaires and special interest while forcing benefit cuts to Social Security and Medicare beyond those proposed in the House Republican budget.

This legislation also distracts from making the hard choices we need to make to reduce the deficit and at the same time create jobs and grow our economy. The legislation makes it almost impossible to increase revenues, even on the millionaires and billionaires who are doing just fine in this economy. It also fails to reduce Pentagon spending, which accounts for more than half of our discretionary spending budget, forcing more pain on families, seniors and other hard-working Americans.

We must address our budget challenges, but we cannot do so on the backs of our seniors and working families. For these reasons, I am opposed to this legislation, and while I was ill and could not vote, I would like the record to show that I would have voted to table the motion to proceed on HR 2560, the Cut, Cap and Balance Act. I am strongly opposed to this legislation.●

## MORNING BUSINESS

**Mr. REID.** Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 2 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak during that time for up to 10 minutes each.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

## SCHEDULE

**Mr. REID.** Mr. President, there will be no further rollcall votes this week. The next vote will be on Monday at approximately 5:30 p.m. I will give a scheduling update later after I confer with the Republican leader.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

**Mr. REID.** Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

## MOVING FORWARD

**Mr. REID.** Mr. President, the Senate just conducted a very important vote. We have now demonstrated that the

House Republicans' cut, cap, and balance bill is over, done, and dead. This was a necessary step, and this step now allows the process to move forward.

Let me take a moment to discuss where we go from here.

Earlier this week, the Republican leader and I were working together on a path to avert insolvency. It was a fallback plan. It was the second choice for everyone, including me, and the Republican leader I am sure. But earlier this week, it looked as though we needed to go to that fallback plan as soon as possible. Thus, earlier this week, it looked as though the Senate would have to originate that legislation, perhaps as soon as today, to avoid default.

During the course of the week, however, circumstances have changed. The Speaker and the President have been working diligently together to reach an agreement on a major deficit-reduction measure. As I said earlier this morning, I wish them both very well. That is very important to our country.

The product on which they are working would address, I understand, both taxes and spending. Under the Constitution, the House of Representatives must originate all revenue measures. Therefore, the path to avert default now runs first through the House of Representatives—that is what the Constitution demands—and we in the Senate must wait for them. Therefore, the Senate does not need to originate legislation today.

Earlier this week, I had announced the Senate would need to be in session this weekend. But based on these changed circumstances—and they change fairly rapidly—that is no longer the case.

So at the close of business today, the Senate will be out until Monday. Over the weekend, of course, there will be all kinds of meetings going on, and I will do my best to monitor closely the talks between the President and the Speaker, and I will await word of their hoped-for success.

We will be back on Monday. The Senate will have at least one vote Monday evening, and the Senate will wait anxiously for the House of Representatives to send us their work product so we can later next week pass legislation to prevent a default in our great country.

I am going to consider moving other legislation in case that does not work in the House of Representatives. I received a letter from Senators today as to some suggestions they have. There is a meeting that is going to take place at 11 o'clock today with the Gang of 6. The Republican leader and I will be in on that meeting. We are doing our very best to keep all Senators, Democrats and Republicans, on top of what is going on. But, frankly, in fairness to the Republican leader and to me, a lot of what is going on we don't know. So we are, because of the negotiations—at least I am speaking for myself; I can't speak for the Republican leader, but I have not been in the day-to-day negotiations as to what is going on between the President and the Speaker.